

# AS HISTORY

## The Sun King: Louis XIV, France and Europe, 1643–1685

Paper 2F

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**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**

1 hour 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2F**.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
    - 50 minutes on Section A
    - 40 minutes on Section B.
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**Section A****Answer Question 01**

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**Source A**

Nicolas Fouquet's letter to his fellow minister and adviser to Louis XIV, Le Tellier, explaining his defence and asking him to make these points to the King.

Monsieur Le Tellier well knows that at the end of 1654, Servien and even the Cardinal himself had run out of money and the entire kingdom was on the edge of disaster. At this point, I took over Servien's responsibilities and through my zeal and application – but what is more through my own resources and those of my friends – I restored the state finances and kept them going through crisis after crisis over a period of seven years, so that we not only had all we needed but also prevailed over our enemies. I may have done some blameworthy things, but I did what I had to do since it was the only way to avert disaster.

**Source B**

At least some five years afterwards, Louis XIV, helped by his ministers, wrote about Fouquet's arrest in a private memoir intended to advise the Dauphin about government.

It might seem strange that I still employed Fouquet once I knew of his thefts, but I knew he was intelligent and very knowledgeable, which made me think that, provided he avowed his past faults and promised to correct them, he might serve me well. I therefore placed Colbert beside him as controller but he could not stop his excessive expenditure in fortifying and beautifying his palaces, forming secret factions against me and putting in the hands of his friends important sources of income which he had gained at my expense, hoping to pay himself back when he became the chief minister. All of France, convinced like me of the Surintendant's misconduct, applauded his arrest.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is the more valuable in explaining Fouquet's role within France between 1654 and 1661?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03

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**EITHER**

0	2
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‘The most important consequence of the War of Devolution of 1667–8 was the Dutch War of 1672–9.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**OR**

0	3
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‘The death of Colbert in 1683 was highly significant for the government of France.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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